

3 **Minutes of previous meeting**

Having declared a pecuniary interest Councillors Ian Brookfield and Val Evans left the meeting room and took no part in the consideration of this item.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1 November 2017 be agreed as a correct record.

4 **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5 **Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance presented the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the review of Councillor's Allowances. He advised the Panel consisted of three members and had met in January 2018. The Panel had made six recommendations to the Council.

The Director of Governance, advised the Panel had used a range of sources of evidence and in particular considered the allowances paid to Councillors of the Black Country, West Midlands Metropolitan Councils and fifteen similar sized councils in this Councils CiPFA family group.

Ray Tomkinson, Independent Member, added the approach taken by the Independent Remuneration Panel was reasonable and sensible. He was very supportive of the paper.

Resolved:

1. Council be recommended to:

- a) Consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel and approve, reject or approve alternative proposals for each of the following recommendations made by the Panel:

Recommendation 1: That for the municipal years 2018/19 – 2021/22 the Basic Allowance be increased each year by any percentage increase in pay agreed for local government employees.

Recommendation 2: That no change should be made to the current Special Responsibility Allowances.

Recommendation 3: That no change should be made to the current Dependant Carers' Allowance.

Recommendation 4: That no change should be made to the current Travelling and Subsistence Allowances

Recommendation 5: That no change be made to the current Co-optees Allowances.

- b) The section on Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme be removed from the Councillor Allowances scheme.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

- c) Delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer to amend the Scheme of Councillor Allowances according to the decisions taken by Council for inclusion in the Council's Constitution.